

broken, by the perfidy of the French court, which disapproved of these proceedings, and resolved to harass the English before their town was built, and their fortifications erected. Instructions were therefore sent from France to be communicated to the descendants of the French in Nova Scotia, and immediately the scene was changed. The French engaged the Indians to use their utmost endeavours to prevent the new colony from proceeding; and the year in which peace was proclaimed and Cape Breton restored, was not expired, when the town began to be frequently attacked in the night; and the English, in a country which in the strongest terms had been secured by treaty to the British crown, could not stir into the adjoining woods, without the danger of being shot, scalped, or taken prisoners. The English however prosecuted the settlement with indefatigable industry, and the town, as has been already mentioned, was soon happily finished.

But it was impossible to clear woods, and plough lands without separating into small parties; and this work was rendered extremely dangerous; for though the French and Indians durst not attack any considerable body of the English, yet they frequently fell upon small parties; and though they had been often repulsed, they always returned whenever they could find an opportunity of doing it to advantage. Complaint of this open war in a time of peace, was now made to the court of France, when his Most Christian Majesty proposed that commissaries should be appointed to settle the bounds of Nova Scotia; but those of the French, endeavouring by all the arts of sophistry to prove, that Nova Scotia, ceded to the English, by the treaty of Utrecht, was no more than the peninsula of that country, the British commissaries justified our claim